

**To:** Whitley, Christopher[Whitley.Christopher@epa.gov]; Slugantz, Lynn[Slugantz.Lynn@epa.gov]; Jackson, Robert W.[Jackson.Robertw@epa.gov]  
**From:** Field, Jeff  
**Sent:** Mon 1/5/2015 8:20:46 PM  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT -- TIME SENSITIVE -- Media Inquiry -- KWMU Public Radio -- West Lake Landfill

I would caveat Curtis' response by indicating that time frame indicated is based on an alternative being decided on within the next 3 to 4 months.

**From:** Whitley, Christopher  
**Sent:** Monday, January 05, 2015 2:15 PM  
**To:** Slugantz, Lynn; Field, Jeff; Jackson, Robert W.  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT -- TIME SENSITIVE -- Media Inquiry -- KWMU Public Radio -- West Lake Landfill  
**Importance:** High

UPDATE: Curtis has drafted a new proposed response to Question #4, below.

**From:** Whitley, Christopher  
**Sent:** Monday, January 05, 2015 1:47 PM  
**To:** Slugantz, Lynn; Field, Jeff; Jackson, Robert W.  
**Subject:** URGENT -- TIME SENSITIVE -- Media Inquiry -- KWMU Public Radio -- West Lake Landfill  
**Importance:** High

Lynn, Jeff and Bob,

We have a handful of questions from Veronique LaCapra at KWMU Public Radio in St. Louis, regarding West Lake.

Curtis, Ben and I have collaborated on these proposed answers. I need to clear them with the three of you, as well as with Karl—hopefully before the reporter's 3 p.m. deadline today.

NOTE: We're looking for a response to Question #4.

Proposed responses to be attributed to Regional Administrator Karl Brooks:

1. Q: Can you please confirm that Administrator Brooks says EPA Region 7 will reach a new decision on what to do with the radioactive waste at West Lake before January 2017 (as stated in yesterday's Post-Dispatch article)?

A: Yes, in 2014 I shared with the Missouri Congressional Delegation that it is my intention to present for public review and comment a revised Record of Decision for the West Lake Landfill Site by January 2017.

2. Q: What is the status of EPA's testing to assess the extent of the radioactive contamination at the West Lake and Bridgeton Landfills, and when will that be completed?

A: The latest round of testing to more sharply define and characterize the presence of radiologically impacted material (RIM) at this site was completed in February 2014. EPA Region 7 is currently awaiting the final report on that sampling from the Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs). EPA, in consultation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is studying the need for further data to augment the site characterization, but no specific sampling or testing strategy to provide that additional data has been formulated at this time.

3. Q: Does Administrator Brooks still maintain that the underground fire is not spreading toward the radioactive waste?

A: EPA appreciates the perspective offered by the MDNR contractor who analyzed the gas and temperature data related to the SSE. EPA's own experts on the science of SSEs have not always agreed with the contractor's characterizations of the SSE at Bridgeton Landfill, but we all agree that a more definitive analysis of the SSE and its related conditions would require more data to be collected and studied.

4. Q: Does the EPA still plan to start overseeing construction of a fire break sometime between November 2015 and March 2016 (not before)?

A: The EPA continues working closely with our partners in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assess the options available for an isolation system. According to the latest estimates the design phase of an isolation system could take until late 2015 or early 2016.

**Chris Whitley**

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